

President's Student Round Table

November 3, 2016

Concerns and Responses

Presented at March 23, 2017
President's Student Round Table

- ❖ **REVIEW OF GROUND RULES**
- ❖ **HOW ISSUES ARE ADDRESSED**
- ❖ **REVIEW OF SPRING 2016 ISSUES**
- ❖ **ITEMS FROM SUGGESTION BOXES**

ISSUES FROM FALL 2016

- ❖ **Security & Security Cameras**
- ❖ **Educosoft Software**
- ❖ **On Line, Face to Face & Hybrid Classes and LEADS**
- ❖ **WIFI**
- ❖ **Fine Arts Building**
- ❖ **Parking Spaces for Students**
- ❖ **Cafeteria**
- ❖ **Residence Halls**
- ❖ **Nursing/FA & scholarships**
- ❖ **Dental Hygiene**

SECURITY & SECURITY CAMERAS

Concern:

A student asked about Security cameras in parking lots. Her car was hit and there was no way of tracking down who did it. It would be nice if we could get security cameras in our parking lots.

Response:

Budget constraints will not allow installation of a system at this time. A security camera system has been placed on the list of projects for future consideration.

EDUCOSOFT SOFTWARE

Concern:

Educosoft Software program is not a very good program. It is confusing to use and seems to have issues.

Response:

This software is used by the developmental math courses. Although it is too late to make changes for spring, we will investigate this issue with Cyndy Watt and discuss alternatives for fall 2017.

ON LINE, FACE TO FACE & HYBRID CLASSES/ LEADS

Dr. Sparks asked about face to face, hybrid, or online classes. 21 out of 22 said face to face was their 1st choice. One adult student said that online classes helped her due to her schedule and personal situation.

We continue to work with advising, athletes, and students to determine which classes best fit student needs. Each semester the Dean of General Studies sends an email to advising, the dean of CTE, and athletic coaches/advisors for input. This past fall, there were several courses requested to be added to the schedule including face to face non-majors science, face to face PE courses, and face to face sociology. Although we could not accommodate the sociology request at this time, we were able to offer the others face to face. Due to physical constraints and faculty availability, we cannot always offer every class in every format a student might want. This is further complicated by dual credit moving predominantly online. However, we have advertised for adjuncts in certain fields to help meet the face to face demands. At this time we have mostly received applications for people with education hours, which is not an area we have high demand for.

Online classes need to have more detailed information for the students to follow. The hybrid classes are good if the instructor works w/the class load and assignments. Quick instructor feedback is important. History classes were good, but the Govt. classes were harder to do successfully.

Online classes are monitored in the same way face to face classes are—through observations of the work. Faculty should provide timely feedback in compliance with the online policies. The Dean of General Studies will remind online faculty of these policies in the spring 2017 General Studies meeting held on January 9. Greg Gabehart, district Blackboard trainer, will give a brief presentation on tips for a user friendly online class. As there are two instructors who teach online Government, without an instructor name, the dean cannot directly address the issue with the instructor.

ON LINE, FACE TO FACE & HYBRID CLASSES/ LEADS CONTINUED

15 of 22 students said that we needed to have more night classes, especially core classes. Maybe having some night science classes with labs as well. A 6 pm or 8 pm class time would be fine for night classes so students could take these courses after work. Student preference was: 6-8 class time-10; 8-10 class time-9.

For spring 2017, the following evening classes are on the schedule: Science for Non-Majors (Lecture and Lab), Government, and History. Both Government and History are Hybrid courses and have reasonable enrollment. The Science class has 3 students and will most likely be canceled. One issue with schedule night classes is that there are only limited numbers of hours. So, if a student takes the Monday History class, they cannot take the lab and lecture for science. Also night classes do not work for most athletes during the spring competitive seasons. In previous years we have offered both English and Speech at night. The numbers in these classes have been consistently low (10 or less). This year, due to late summer resignations, we could not offer night classes due to staffing shortages. These positions will be replaced by fall 2017 and we will add those courses back to the evening schedule. We will continue to offer as many evening classes as we can depending on enrollment.

Dr. Sparks mentioned the option of HC offering 8 week classes instead of 16 week classes. The students seem to be interested in HC offering 8 week classes.

We do offer history, English, PE, Learning Frameworks, college algebra, and Developmental Math and English in the 8 week format. In some cases, the students are successful. In others, they struggle. For example, in spring 2016, we offered an 8 week Developmental English followed by an 8 week English 1301. Of the original 30 students, 21 advanced through developmental to the transfer level successfully and were able to complete both classes in a single semester. However, we tried the same idea in fall 2017 with Developmental Math and College Algebra and only 3 students took both classes. Both the math instructors indicated that 8 weeks was not enough time for the students to really grasp the material. The English course may also have been more successful because both classes were taught by the same instructor. We will discuss that same option for the math for fall 2017.

ON LINE, FACE TO FACE & HYBRID CLASSES/ LEADS CONTINUED

Success in 8 week classes really depends on the student and their understanding of the material. For some classes, in order for the student to complete an 8 week class, they have to do a significant amount of the classwork online or outside of class. Self-motivated, technologically strong students do not usually have issues with this. Other students with weaker skills struggle. We will continue to offer these classes as we can based on faculty availability. Offering only 8 week classes is not a practical solution for Howard College at this point partly because many of our schedules are dictated by dual credit needs.

WIFI

Concern:

WIFI in old wing of the Men's dorm is worse this year than it was last year. The old equipment was replaced this past summer but it is still not working properly.

Response:

We have quotes for a better WIFI system that allows for overlap and will help cover the area, but lead to less collisions, plus allow correct coverage as well as maintain reliable network.

FINE ARTS BUILDING

Concern:

The Music building enrollment is growing and the facilities are small. Good problem to have, but causing some problems. Discussion on replacing carpet in the Music building and making some other changes.

Response:

This building is under consideration for future renovation and possibly enlargement. Howard College is seeking private funding for this project.

PARKING SPACES FOR STUDENTS

Concern:

Cosmetology students are unhappy about the parking situation. They have been told to park other places due to not enough space for community and clients for Cosmetology. What can be done?

Responses:

Assigned parking spaces have been designated for cosmetology clients who are senior citizens. Students have the right to park in other open spots on a first come, first serve basis. Suggestions for improvements can be left with the Dean of Student Services' Office.

CAFETERIA

Concern:

Cheer students practice from 4-5:30 p.m. and when they go to Cafeteria selections are limited and sometimes there is no food left. This has been happening on a regular basis.

Response:

The Dean of Student Services has addressed the issue with the Great Western Dining Food Service Director. Night kitchen staff have been instructed to have more food available for students who arrive after 5:30 PM. Also, the Great Western Dining Director has implemented a change in night kitchen leadership

RESIDENCE HALLS

Concern:

There are roaches in the Residence Halls.

Response:

The Residence Hall staff works with the Maintenance staff to schedule regular pest control spraying the residence halls. A thorough spray is done in August before students move into the residence halls in during winter break when students have checked out for winter break. During the long semesters and the summer, common areas are sprayed on a regular basis. If a student should have a pest concern with their room, they need to report the concern to the Coordinator of Residence Education to ensure the concern is addressed.

NURSING/FA & SCHOLARSHIPS

Concern:

Nursing student asked about making FA/Scholarship information to be easier for them to find.

Response:

For this semester I have sent out financial aid information to the Transition students working closely with the business office and financial aid. I have e mailed Jan Forsythe about doing “Jeb Worthy” nursing scholarships for student enrolled (generic) each semester as well as other Transition students.

As an update we awarded 7 Transition students Jeb Worthy, 2-3 LVN students this semester, and 1-2 generic.

Hopefully with communication about costs/financial aid upfront we can help better serve the students.

DENTAL HYGIENE

Concern:

Dental Hygiene has a pharmacology class that is hybrid and it is very hard. The instructors are great, just hard not to have face to face.

Response:

Pharmacology is taught by J. Farmer and they meet once per week for questions. Also paper testing is carried out in the classroom. This course is enhanced and all material is available for students via blackboard. Pharmacology is hard and will always be a difficult course due to its content and life-threatening potential for patient treatment.

DENTAL HYGIENE-CONTINUED

Concern:

Policy changes after enrollment. Drug tests etc., The extra charges makes it hard to budget

Response:

Policy changes were carried out to include drug testing and cost \$49.00 per semester payable to Twin Oaks Testing (they also carry out the testing for nursing students). With the addition of a special needs clinic in Lubbock, there are added risk to the students if they have a problem with addiction. The clinic houses propofol, versed and other classes of drugs to provide deep sedation for patients. Students visit public schools, nursing homes and centers and need to be at their best, not only physically, but also mentally to provide education to these populations. It is in the student's best interest to continue drug testing. It is in the best interest for HC to continue as well for liability reasons. There were some policy changes that were completed in order to lift burdens off the students. The laser certification was costly (480.00 each), and this is now taught in the curriculum at no extra charge to the student. Rooms were paid for during the national board review and this saved the students money as well. Out of town rotations are made so the students can drive to them instead of paying for hotel rooms. If they book rooms, it is on their own and not a requirement.

DENTAL HYGIENE-CONTINUED

Concern:

3 pts off final grade for absences (no exceptions)

Response:

Students are given one day of absence without penalty and no penalty will be enforced for pregnancy or health related illness as long as the student has doctor's orders to be absent. Other absences are case by case and are handled by the Instructor over the course.

Concern:

Negative moral not a true reflection of their grades

Response:

Grades are a true reflection of student performance. Grades are given to the students at any time they request them. Students have not voiced low moral to the admin of the program. Grades correspond with the syllabi, which is given to the students electronically through blackboard. Students also sign a syllabi contract on the first day of class.

DENTAL HYGIENE-CONTINUED

Concern:

Unhappy students. What can other options be?

Response:

Guessing that this is coming from point deduction for absence...see resolution for absences. There is great responsibility for instructors to prepare students for board examinations and employment and this is taken seriously.

Options have already been stated. No other options at this time.

DENTAL HYGIENE-CONTINUED

Concern:

Advertise for “specialty” things. They were told that they could NOT advertise in the paper.

Response:

Again, guessing what “specialty” items are.....students do have plenty of opportunity to advertise. They are allowed to gather names of prospective patients at health fairs, school visits, neighborhood night events, Facebook sites etc..... Training will be complete for Lasers in February. Teeth bleaching methods will be incorporated this semester as soon as training is complete (February). Dental sealants are also offered and they advertise this as well when they attend fairs, visits, etc... Newspaper advertising is a good idea, we need to know who to go through in order to do this, but remember that there are many dentists in the area and we do not want to “step on anyone’s toes.” No, students can’t take it upon themselves to place ads in the newspaper. Everything has to be approved.

DENTAL HYGIENE-CONTINUED

Concern:

Orientation about what to expect, scholarships and costs. It is very confusing.

Response:

Cost are in detail and are placed on a spreadsheet for the students. A copy of the spreadsheet is on the HC website and is handed to each student during orientation. Students are made aware of scholarship application during class, and via a blackboard announcement in January. They are encouraged to apply, but some do NOT bother to apply for scholarships. Some students were upset that money was given to every student who applied for scholarships during our last pinning ceremony. If they would have applied, they too would have received scholarship money.

Concern:

Can they advertise on Bulletin Boards? Facebook? Texts? Radio?

Response:

Students can advertise on the radio, Facebook, via health fairs, school visits, etc. Advertising takes place all during the semesters, but has to be given the ok via an instructor. Students can't take it upon themselves to get on the radio and advertise dental hygiene without an instructor present "on -air" to help the student. All brochures and table clinics must be approved by the instructors as well before they go public.